



ANGLO-CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter—May 2014

NOTICE OF THE AGM AND SUMMER LECTURE

This will be held on Monday June 9th and will be followed Canon Terry Loudon who will speak on Father Dolling. The meeting will take place at St Clement Danes church, Strand, commencing at 7pm. Non-members are welcome to attend. The lecture takes place after the AGM and the evening will end with refreshments and a finger buffet.

THE MARQUIS D'OISY: LECTURE BY DR JULIAN LITTEN

The printed booklet of Dr Litten's much appreciated lecture of last year is now available. This contains colour illustrations, the first as such appearing in one of our printed lectures. Dr Litten has un-earthed the story of an obscure eccentric who deserves to be remembered. He presents the Marquis' life in an elegant and scholarly form which will evince sympathy and compassion for an unusual man and artist.

Copies are available at £5.00 post free from the Secretary.

THE FRIENDS OF ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, PHILBEACH GARDENS

The Friends is being re-launched in the autumn to support the mission of this extraordinary West London Anglo-Catholic shrine, to encourage its wider use for cultural and community activities, and to work with the parish to develop a programme of restoration for the building and its remarkable contents. The Lecture series at the church this autumn will include talks by Lady Lucinda Lambton, Dr Ayla Lepine and Dr James Bettley.

For further information email: Friends@saintcuthberts.org, or call Father Bagott on 0207 3703263 for information.

SUMMER COACH TOUR

This will take place on Saturday July 12th leaving Kings Cross at 9.15 am. The destination is West Sussex and visits are planned to churches associated with Cardinal Manning and a variety of other churches in and around Chichester with lunch and a chance to visit the cathedral in the City. More details and a booking form will be found here.

LONDON AUTUMN CHURCH WALK

This is planned for October 4th in West London.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Church of England and the First World War by Alan Wilkinson (£22.50, published by Lutterworth Press, PO Box 60, Cambridge)

Canon Wilkinson has addressed the Society in the past and his knowledge and insight is well known. He is now elderly and rather than rewrite this masterpiece, first published in 1978 and then reprinted in 1996, it has been reissued by Lutterworth Press as one of the many books being published to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the War. The Church of England found the experience of world warfare very difficult to cope with, and its chaplains were left in an



intermediate and criticised position, not serving as combatants (as did French priests) and told not to serve on the front line. The difficulties of dealing with men who appeared to have little knowledge of religion was made more stark by the professionalism of Roman Catholic priests, who were tending to a flock which was instructed and accustomed to what was being taught. There are many interesting pen portraits and episodes set out here, and some illuminating pictures: Bishop A.F. Winnington-Ingram, a kindly but limited man who allowed Anglo-Catholicism to flourish in London, is shown in military uniform. He was one of the most bellicose of Anglican clerics despite his personal benevolence. So far as Anglo-Catholics specifically are concerned, it is well known that there was real discrimination against their priests, especially early in the War, but as the conflict continued official attitudes relaxed and some of the better known priests served as temporary chaplains. The practice of prayers for the dead, controversial as the War began, became far more common as it progressed, as indeed did reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. This remains a very good introduction to its subject.

Michael Yelton

Anglicans on High: the Anglo-Catholic revival in Suffolk and the surrounding area by Roy Tricker

This is a long awaited volume. Roy Tricker is well known as an authority on Anglo-Catholicism in Suffolk. The first edition of this book came out many years ago and was duplicated and in black and white only. This second edition is really a different book all together, much extended and also lavishly illustrated in black and white and with a colour section. The latter is particularly interesting, with pictures of Kettlebaston, an Anglican Papalist outpost which the Society visited some years ago. There are also interesting contrasts of the interior of well-known churches such as Eye (where the redoubtable Canon Donald Rea flourished for many years) taken in the 1950s and then again in more modern times- usually not an improvement. Suffolk is not generally thought of as a centre of the Catholic Revival, but the author shows how many churches, usually in the country, were affected by it. Many have lost the teaching and sometimes the furnishings, but the growth of the Movement is well demonstrated and there are many black and white pictures of these pioneers of the Faith. There is a great deal of information in this book which is not available elsewhere, and it is strongly recommended. The price is not by present day standards high, as the print run is no doubt short, and it is well worth it.

Michael Yelton

Available at £30 plus £5 p & p from the Fitzwalter Press, 38 Lark Drive, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1NZ.

St Luke's, Grimethorpe 1904-2014 by Bryan Danforth

This small booklet of 40 pages (with 56 black and white illustrations) is, perhaps unintentionally, a very important piece of social history. As soon as I received my copy I could not put it down until I had read it. The tradition of St Luke's is uncompromisingly Anglo-Catholic but the writer does not dwell over-much on the niceties of architecture, liturgy, vestments, church furnishings and festivals, excellent though they all are at Grimethorpe. That is all part of a background which can be assumed. The writer focuses upon the things that really matter – the people.

St Luke's has been at the heart of the Grimethorpe community for 110 years. That heart has experienced great joy and great distress. It is no exaggeration to say that this book is about incarnation. It is about death and resurrection. No need for a theological tome, for the Grimethorpe community has lived it.

A small farming hamlet developed into a busy mining village. On page one we are told that St Luke's is "A church built by the miners for the miners". The story of Grimethorpe is the story of mining and the story of mining hereabouts is the story of Grimethorpe. The population grew and



there was steady progress in all aspects of Church life until WW1. Many of the men did not return and a most impressive Memorial was erected close to the church. To this day Remembrance Sunday is a major church and community event in Grimethorpe with large numbers attending the Act of Remembrance.

In 1921 when the miners would not accept worsened working conditions they were locked out for three months, with consequent great hardship. During that period the church hall was built, locals doing most of the labouring tasks. There was an uneasy peace but then another lock-out. During the Great Strike of 1926 the vicar, trying not to take sides, wrote: "The Church must help to create the right atmosphere in which the counsels of peace can prevail". Church collections were suspended for the duration of the stoppages. The 1980s were perhaps the greatest time of trial and we read: "The church tried to support the people of the parish throughout the difficulties". Grimethorpe appeared on the news worldwide and the vicar was interviewed even for the New York Times. "The church stood as the spiritual centre of the village for churchgoers and those who did not attend". Following the closure of the mines Grimethorpe was classed as one of the poorest villages in Europe. Social amenities were threatened and even the demolition of the church was suggested. The plight of the village was depicted in the film *Brassed Off* in which it was called Grimley. "The overriding image of the film was that even in times of great despair the people of the community rise above it and band together with care and a good dose of humour". At St Luke's an inspirational vicar worked indefatigably to build good relationships, to restore the building and to plan for a brighter future. "The regeneration of the Church had begun. The village also began to change". In 2003 the Miners' Memorial was dedicated. It lists the names of all those miners who had died in the mine. It is a striking landmark structure and a significant pilgrimage destination.

St Luke's, Grimethorpe is alive and well. When a former vicar was leaving he said that he was going to an "important" parish. Didn't he know what he was leaving? The story of St Luke's is important and it needs to be recorded in some detail.

Reviewed by Stephen Savage

Copies of the book can be obtained from Mr Bryan Danforth, to whom cheques should be made payable: 165 Brierley Road, Grimethorpe, Barnsley, S72 7AR. £6 – including postage. Proceeds will be donated to the church.